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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549,365	09/14/2005	Trevor P Martin	36-1918	5529
23117 7590 08/24/2007 NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			EXAMINER BROWN, SHEREE N	
			ART UNIT 2163	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

mn

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/549,365	Applicant(s) MARTIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Sheree N. Brown	Art Unit 2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/5/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the application filed on 09/14/2005. Claims 1-11 are pending and presented for examination. Claims 1, 10 and 11 are independent and the other claims are dependent.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/5/05 was filed after the mailing date of the Application 10/549,365 filed on 09/14/05. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Claims 1, 8, 9, 10, and 11 contains misspelled words such "analyzing, analyzed, generalization, specialization, specialized, and analyzing". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US

2003/0033288 to Shanahan et al (hereafter Shanahan).

Claim 1, 10 and 11:

Shanahan teaches a method of generating a concept dictionary (140) [See Figure 24 and Figure 6, Item 6110] for use in querying an information system (125) [See Abstract & Paragraph(s) 0160, 0290, 0305, 0540, 0545, 0547, 0551 and 0555], comprising the steps of:

(i) receiving an information search criterion [See Abstract & Paragraph(s) 0160, 0290, 0305, 0540, 0545, 0547, 0551 and 0555];

(ii) deriving (105), using a lexical reference source (115), at least one search criterion having related meaning to said received search criterion (110) [See Abstract & Paragraph(s) 0218, 0143, 0158, 0160, 0282-0285, and 0476];

(iii) identifying sets of information in said information system (125) relevant to said received search criterion (110) and to said at least one derived search criterion ["sets of documents to list the categories" See Abstract & Paragraph(s) 0368 & 0410-0430];

(iv) analyzing the identified sets of information to derive relationships between said received search criterion (110) and said at least one derived search criterion

in the context of said information system (125) [See Abstract & Paragraph(s) 0366]; and
(v) storing, in a concept dictionary (140), information relating to said received
(110) and said at least one derived search criterion and to respective said derived
relationships there between, for use in querying said information system (125)
[See Abstract & Paragraph(s) 0574-0577].

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected on the same basis as claim 1.

Claim 2:

Shanahan teaches wherein, at step (i), receiving an information search criterion (110)
comprises selecting an information search criterion stored in said concept dictionary
(140) [See Figure 61 & 62].

Claim 3:

Shanahan teaches wherein, at step (ii), deriving at least one search criterion having
related meaning comprises replacing a term of said received search criterion (110) with
a related term having a more specific meaning according to
said lexical reference source (115) [See Figure 0137, 0242 & 0420].

Claim 4:

Shanahan teaches wherein, at step (ii) deriving at least one search criterion having
related meaning comprises replacing a term of said received search criterion (110) with
a related term having a more general meaning according to said lexical reference source
(115) [See Figure 0137, 0242 & 0420]. *Claim 4 contains similar limitations as claim 3 and is*

similarly rejected.

Claim 5:

Shanahan teaches wherein, at step (ii) deriving at least one search criterion having related meaning comprises replacing a term of said received search criterion (110) with a related term having an equivalent meaning according to said lexical reference source (115) [See Figure 0137, 0242 & 0420]. *Claim 5 contains similar limitations as claim 3 and is similarly rejected.*

Claim 6:

Shanahan teaches, wherein, at step (ii), said lexical reference source (115) is a thesaurus [See Figure 0053].

Claim 7:

Shanahan teaches, wherein, at step (ii), said lexical reference source (115) is an ontological database [See Figure 0053 wherein the term "ontology" is used to describe listings of synonyms such as in a Thesaurus].

Claim 8:

Shanahan teaches, wherein, at step (ii), a plurality of search criteria are derived, each having related meaning to said received search criterion (110), and wherein at step (iv), the respective identified sets of information are analyzed to derive relationships between search criteria comprised in said plurality of derived search criteria [See Figure 53, Item 5302 & Paragraph 0366].

Claim 9:

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Shanahan teaches, wherein, at step (iv), deriving relationships between said search criteria comprises performing fuzzy processing of said derived search criteria and respective said identified sets of information to determine a measure of the generalization and/or specialization of one said search criterion over another in the context of said information system (125) [See Paragraph(s) 0267, 0367, 0368 and 0387-0393].


Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheree N. Brown whose telephone number is (571) 272-4229. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

S. Brown
AU 2163
August 16, 2007


WILSON LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER